Listing of the Pending Claims

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A method of operating a probe device in a broadband wireless system, the method comprising:

receiving a message;

processing the message to determine channel information describing actual use of each of a plurality of channels in the broadband wireless system by each of a plurality of users, wherein the channel information describing actual use includes a per-user breakdown of a time spent in each channel;

storing the channel information in a memory in the probe device; and

transferring the channel information from the memory to a user system.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the channels are upstream.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the channels are downstream.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the message is a credit that allows usage of one of the channels.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the message indicates a completion of usage of one of the channels.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the probe device is connected to a switch in the broadband wireless system.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the probe device is connected to an upstream manager in the broadband wireless system.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the probe device is connected to a downstream manager in the broadband wireless system.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein processing the message comprises determining a state of one of the channels.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 9 wherein the state is polling.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 9 wherein the state is dedicated.

Claim 12 (Original): The method of claim 9 wherein the state is idle.

Claim 13 (Original): The method of claim 9 further comprising determining a time in the state.

Claim 14 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein processing the message comprises monitoring a number of bytes transmitted.

Claim 15 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein processing the message comprises monitoring a number of messages transmitted during a state of one of the channels.

Claim 16 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the channel information comprises a state of one of the channels.

Claim 17 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the channel information comprises a change in a state of one of the channels.

Claim 18 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the channel information comprises a number of bytes transmitted.

Claim 19 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the channel information comprises a number of messages transmitted.

Claim 20 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the channel information comprises a time in a state of one of the channels.

Claims 21-40 (Canceled).

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): A probe device for use in a broadband wireless system, the probe device comprising:

an interface configured to transfer a message; and

a processor connected to the interface and configured to receive a message, process the message to determine channel information describing actual use of each of a plurality of channels in the broadband wireless system by each of a plurality of users, wherein the channel information describing actual use includes a per-user breakdown of a time spent in each channel, store the channel information in a memory in the probe device, and transfer the channel information from the memory to a user system.

Claim 42 (Original): The probe device of claim 41 wherein the channels are upstream.

Claim 43 (Original): The probe device of claim 41 wherein the channels are downstream.

Claim 44 (Original): The probe device of claim 41 wherein the message is a credit that allows usage of one of the channels.

Claim 45 (Original): The probe device of claim 41 wherein the message indicates a completion of usage of one of the channels.

Claim 46 (Original): The probe device of claim 41 wherein the probe device is connected to a switch in the broadband wireless system.

Claim 47 (Original): The probe device of claim 41 wherein the probe device is connected to an upstream manager in the broadband wireless system.

Claim 48 (Original): The probe device of claim 41 wherein the probe device is connected to a downstream manager in the broadband wireless system.

Claim 49 (Original): The probe device of claim 41 wherein the processor is configured to determine a state of one of the channels.

Claim 50 (Original): The probe device of claim 49 wherein the state is polling.

Claim 51 (Original): The probe device of claim 49 wherein the state is dedicated.

Claim 52 (Original): The probe device of claim 49 wherein the state is idle.

Claim 53 (Original): The probe device of claim 49 wherein the processor is configured to determine a time in the state.

Claim 54 (Original): The probe device of claim 41 wherein the processor is configured to monitor a number of bytes transmitted.

Claim 55 (Original): The probe device of claim 41 wherein the processor is configured to monitor a number of messages transmitted during a state of one of the channels.

Claim 56 (Original): The probe device of claim 41 wherein the channel information comprises a state of one of the channels.

Claim 57 (Original): The probe device of claim 41 wherein the channel information comprises a change in a state of one of the channels.

Claim 58 (Original): The probe device of claim 41 wherein the channel information comprises a number of bytes transmitted.

Claim 59 (Original): The probe device of claim 41 wherein the channel information comprises a number of messages transmitted.

Claim 60 (Original): The probe device of claim 41 wherein the channel information comprises a time in a state of one of the channels.